

especially mathematics and physics for which he had rare abilities.

On his return to Canada, in 1863, he was ordained priest at St. Mary's church, in this city; and then entered upon that life work which has turned out so honorable to himself and so useful to the church.

The first years of his ministry were spent as professor, but to this was very early added the supervision of the temporal affairs of the college; and in both relations he showed such talent for business and direction that before the age of thirty he was appointed Superior of Assumption College in Sandwich, which the late Archbishop Walsh—then of London—was striving to put on a new footing.

Circumstances and opportunity, it is said, play an important part in every one's life. They did here, at all events, by furnishing an opening for the exercise of those qualities in which the young priest was specially strong.

A great work, material and moral, was imposed upon him. For the buildings of the institution were in a miserable state of repair, besides being quite insufficient in size and accommodations; means were limited, or, to speak more correctly, were entirely wanting, and a long series of mishaps had thrown a lowering tinge over the whole prospect. Only clear, sound judgment, with great strength and tenacity of purpose could hope to master the difficulties in sight. But these were just Father O'Connor's special characteristics. His penetrating business insight showed him at once what such an institution required, both inside and out, and revealed the means and combinations by which it was feasible to meet and overthrow difficulties. And seeing them was, in his case, pretty nearly the same as securing them—if that was possible by any kind of effort. For work to him, then as now, was, like breathing to the rest of us, natural, easy and refreshing.

He could work as many hours in the day as any man I ever met, and with such method withal, and order and despatch, that he could finish more before breakfast—often did—than many would care to tackle in the whole day.

This accounts not only for the large total of his accomplished projects, but also for the ease of his relations with those serving under him. He always did his own share fully, throwing no part of it on anyone, and not infrequently stretching out a ready hand to lighten the burden of his assistants, who—as always happens under such leading—caught up a part of his own spirit and capacity.

The great General at Lodi was not content to order his men to advance, but waving the banner in his own hand, in front, called out to them to follow, which they did with a rush that won the day. This was the tactics of the Superior of Sandwich, a strong, courageous leader, and enabled him always to command what forces he needed for his projects.

But full success does not always follow this capacity to work, and make work. There may be, as we all know, power enough in the boiler, but if the machinery is not rightly set up, each part fitting and in its own proper place, the greater the power the surer the catastrophe we may expect.